

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 27 are currently pending in the application. Claim 16 of the application stands allowed. Claims 1, 2, 17, and 18 are cancelled.

Objected to Claims Rewritten to be Allowable

The Office Action states that Claims 5 - 7, 9, 15, 19, 20, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 5, 9, 19, 22, and 23 have been so rewritten. Claims 6 and 7 depend from rewritten Claim 5, Claim 15 depends from rewritten Claim 9, and Claim 20 has been amended to depend from rewritten Claim 19. In addition, the recitations of non-intervening Claim 2 have been added to Claim 9 and the recitations of non-intervening Claim 18 have been added to Claim 22 in order to provide antecedent basis for the term "pump", and the manner in which the clean and dirty slurry storage tanks are recited in Claims 6, 19, and 20 has been clarified for uniformity among the Claims.

Each of Claims 5 - 7, 9, 15, 19, 20, 22, and 23 are in condition for allowance because each of the Claims have been rewritten in independent format, as directed by the Office Action, or depend from an allowable independent Claim.

Other Amendments

Claims 3 - 4, and 10 - 14 have been amended to depend from Claim 9. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from Claim 5. Claims 21, 24, and 26 have been amended such that Claims 21, and 24 - 27 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 19. Whereas each of Claim 3 - 4, 8, 10 - 14, 21, and 24 - 27 depend from rewritten base Claims that are now in condition for allowance, each of the dependent Claims 3 - 4, 8, 10 - 14, 21, 24 - 27 is also in condition for allowance.

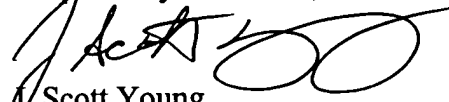
Previously Addressed Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd Paragraph

By Amendment of March 28, 2002, Applicant addressed the rejection of Claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph from an Office Action dated March 13, 2002. The rejection is not restated in the present Office Action but is referenced in the "Allowable Subject Matter" section of the present Office Action. Since the rejection is not restated and has been previously addressed, Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph is no longer pending with respect to Claims 7 and 15.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

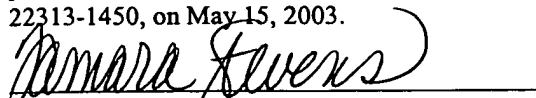
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 15, 2003.


Tamara Stevens